

Serial No. 09/834,208

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 11 are cancelled herein, claims 5-10, 12 and 13 are under consideration and claims 14-18 have been added, with claims 5, 8 and 14 being independent claims. Claim 4 was cancelled in the amendment filed February 8, 2004.

The Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Interview Summary of the interview of December 3, 2004, which was mailed on December 15, 2004.

The Applicant thanks the courtesy extended by Art Unit 3731 Supervisory Patent Examiner Anh Tuan Nguyen to the Applicant's representative in a telephone conversation on May 5, 2005.

The Applicant also notes the Examiner's notation that "both the Examiner and the Examiner's Primary did not find any allowable subject matter in the application," which was repeated from the Interview Summary mailed on December 15, 2004. The Applicant's representative hereby offers a concern that the Examiner has reached a conclusion about the allowability of any future claims without fully and objectively considering the Applicant's claims.

The Applicant is also concerned about the seemingly unnecessary amount of prosecution that has occurred in this case. Finality has been improperly imposed, then withdrawn on four (4) separate occasions: May 6, 2003; May 22, 2003; November 7, 2003 and September 8, 2004.

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